

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** December 27, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on December 15, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Removal Start, Morrow Plating Site, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio**

On December 5, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jon Gulch mobilized the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors to the Site to remove the imminent and substantial threat posed by Morrow Plating (the "Site") in Toledo, Ohio. The site assessment confirmed the presence of characteristic hazardous wastes for corrosivity, reactivity, and various metals (cyanide, barium, silver, cadmium, chromium, and lead). A previous removal action on October 27, 2006, was performed to repair/replace fencing surrounding the site and secure/lock windows and doors. It is anticipated that the removal action will take 120 days to complete.

Morrow Plating was referred to Region 5 by Ohio EPA on October 2006, after the site was closed by the local fire department due to several major electrical code violations. The fire department found over 250 55-gallon drums containing various electroplating wastes, approximately one hundred (100) plating tanks, one floor

pit with large quantities of liquid and sludge, and several dozen smaller containers with varying chemical waste capacities.

Contacts: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)  
Brad Stimple (440-240-1717)

### **Technical Meeting, Seymour Superfund Site, Chicago, Illinois**

On December 14, 2006, a meeting was held in Chicago to discuss the latest monitoring data and institutional controls for the on-going five year review at the Seymour Superfund Site in Seymour, Indiana. Attending were the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and State of Indiana project managers, City of Seymour representative, responsible party representative, and contractor representatives for the Site. The information discussed in this meeting will be used to complete the Seymour five year review, which is due in March 2007. We are currently looking into constructing one or two additional monitoring wells to track the compound 1-4 dioxane in the groundwater aquifer at the Site.

The Seymour Superfund Site is currently in operation & maintenance under the 1987 Record of Decision, 1988 Consent Decree, and a 2002 Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). The remedy includes a hazardous waste cap, and a vapor extraction system which is cycled periodically. The groundwater pump & treatment system was shut off in 2001 under the ESD. There is a contingency in the Seymour ESD to restart the pump & treatment system if the groundwater plume does not continue to contract or remain stable.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **2006 National Carcass Disposal Symposium, Beltsville, Maryland**

From December 4 through 7, 2006, USDA-APHIS along with several co-sponsors held their annual 2006 National Carcass Disposal Symposium. The Symposium focused on connecting research, policy and response in providing a forum for information exchange between policy makers, regulators and scientists. Experts from 9 countries participated. Topics included carcass disposal technologies and environmental impacts in water, air and soil inclusive of discussions and evaluations on response plans and chain of command (ICS) in the event of catastrophic animal

mortalities. On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Anita Boseman and Sonia Vega from Superfund and Environmental Engineer, Ramon Mendoza from Waste, Pesticides and Toxics were in attendance.

Contacts: Anita Boseman (312-886 6941)  
 Sonia Vega (651-296 7361)  
 Ramon Mendoza (312-886-4314)

### **National Approach to Response IT Forum, Denver, Colorado**

During the week of December 11, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jon Gulch, along with Ann Whelan and Paul Zanter, represented Region 5 at the National Approach to Response (NAR) IT Forum in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of the IT Forum was to bring together OSCs and support staff from all EPA Regions to report on IT Forum subgroup activities, including facility/data standards, ERNS/WebEOC, Sampling Plan, SEDD Implementation, and RFID/Barcoding for equipment. In addition, there was a Technology Day where EPA Regions 4 & 8 demonstrated the use of the PathFinder Software application for Disaster Reconnaissance and EPA Region 6 demonstrated updates to Response Manager (formerly RAID). This group will meet on a quarterly basis to determine solutions for the problems and needs addressed during this forum and move forward with modification/design of response applications.

Contact: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 Regional Interagency Steering Committee Michigan, Chicago, Illinois**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 (FEMA 5) Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting was held in the FEMA 5 offices in Chicago on December 6 and 7. Glenn Cekus (CEPPS) and Mike Harris (ERB 2) represented EPA Region 5. The main focus of the meeting was Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 - Mass Care - of the National Response Plan (NRP). Glenn Cekus reported on EPA's potential involvement with ESF-6, although EPA is not listed as a support agency under this function. Such potential activities EPA may be involved with included air sampling and monitoring of evacuation routes and shelter locations to ensure evacuees are not entering through a contaminated zone; selection of debris burning locations to mitigate impact on shelter areas; and sampling/analysis of drinking water wells or other supplies that are provided to the shelters. Later in the day, an ESF Leaders Group meeting was convened, which was also attended by EPA. Included in the

discussion were strategies for "depopulating" (i.e. transferring evacuees from shelters to more substantial temporary housing were also discussed.)

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Great Lakes Water Quality Review, Sediment Review Workgroup  
Completes Final Report, December 2006**

Beginning in April 2006, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) underwent review by U.S. EPA and Environment Canada (EC) as is required every six (6) years under the terms of the Agreement. U.S. EPA and EC were required to make draft recommendations to the Binational Executive Committee to update the Agreement by September 15, 2006, and complete a final report addressing comments received by December 15, 2006. Several binational workgroups were formed to review various articles and annexes in the GLWQA. The Sediment Review Work Group (RWG) was tasked with reviewing the articles and annexes that address dredging and contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes (i.e., Articles 1 and 6, Annexes 7 and 14), for clarity, relevancy, implementation, management frameworks, and accountability. The RWG was split into two subcommittees, one for each Annex, with Bonnie L. Eleder chairing the dredging Annex and assisting the chair of the contaminated sediments Annex. Following a series of conference calls and meetings over the summer and fall, draft and final reports were completed and submitted per the schedule.

Contact: Bonnie L. Eleder (312-886-4885)

**Sheboygan County, Wisconsin Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Plan Table Top Exercise Kick-off Meeting, Plymouth, Wisconsin**

On December 8, 2006, the Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Plan Table Top Exercise Kick-off meeting was held at the Sargento Foods in Plymouth, Wisconsin, facility. Glenn Cekus (Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section) and Ben Maradkel (Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team 3), acted as facilitators for the meeting, which was attended by 12 local emergency responders, the county emergency manager, and Sargento personnel. The table top exercise will focus on the LEPC's chemical emergency plan by drawing the simulated release from the Sargento plant's Risk Management Plan (RMP). The exercise is scheduled for mid-March 2007.

After the meeting Glenn and Ben were shown the anhydrous ammonia process lines that are to be considered as the source of the release. Pictures were taken of the lines, the ammonia storage tanks, and the areas surrounding the plant. These will be used in the writing of the exercise and the Power Point presentation that will be used to familiarize the exercise participants with the plant location and exercise scenario.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**National Directors Spills of National Significance (SONS 07)  
Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C.**

On December 6-7, 2006, there was a National Directors SONS Planning meeting conducted in Washington, D.C. In attendance from U.S. EPA Region 5 were Sheila Calovich and Ann Whelan (ERB #1) and Virginia Narsette (ERB #2). The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the Frequently Asked Questions checklist, review the calendar of upcoming meetings and events, discuss the Master Sequence of Events List, and discuss the exercise control and evaluation process. One of the main topics was how Area Command in the field and Unified Area Command will function. Mark Mjones and Beatriz Olivera (U.S. EPA HQ) participated in this discussion. How these commands will be established and the communication structure of these commands is still being worked on. The next directors SONS meeting will take place via conference call on December 20. The next in-person directors meeting will take place in Chicago in January 2007.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Note of Appreciation (Bonnie Eleder), Great Lakes National  
Program Office, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review**

Bonnie L. Eleder received several notes of appreciation for her participation on the Sediment Review Workgroup of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review: David Cowgill of GLNPO states: "Thank you for your Division's support to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement...review. Over the past year Bonnie Eleder actively participated in this process. John Shaw from Environment Canada and I were charged with reviewing Annex 7 (Dredging) and Annex 14 (Contaminated Sediments). This was part of an overall process for all parts of the Agreement. There was a very open process with stakeholders necessitating many long

conference calls, especially over the summer months. Our group ended up breaking much of the effort into two subcommittees, one for each Annex. Bonnie graciously volunteered chair the Dredging subgroup, and worked with our contractor to coordinate calls, document comments, etc. She also participated in the calls of the other subgroup focusing on contaminated sediment...Bonnie's contribution is much appreciated! Below is some correspondence with my Canadian counterparts with a similar tone. Thanks for the much needed help!"

John Shaw, EC: "I will jump in here as well just to say how much I appreciated the efforts of Anne, Bonnie and Roger...it was a pleasure working with new contacts Bonnie and David."

Roger Santiago, EC: "Thank you for all of your support throughout this entire process. The work you have done is excellent and truly appreciated."

Contact: Bonnie L. Eleder (312-886-4885)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
 Scott Sherman (OSWER)  
 Barry Breen (OSWER)  
 Ed Chu (OSWER)  
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